

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 are pending in this Application, of which Claim 1 is the sole independent claim. Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 13-28 and 30-38 stand rejected.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 5, 6, 9-12 and 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, those claims have been rewritten as such. Acceptance is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 13-28 and 30-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 13-28 and 30-38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kabra et al. (US Patent No. 6,507,834) in view of Konno et al. (US Patent No. 6,078,955). Claim 1 is being cancelled.

Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 13-15, 17, 18, 24-26, 28, 32, 34, 37 and 38 are being amended to depend from Claim 5, which is now allowable as currently amended. As a result, the § 103 rejection of Claims 2-4, 7, 8, 13-28 and 30-38 is believed to be overcome, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being filed concurrently herewith. Entry of the IDS is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all pending claims (Claims 2-38) are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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